

FEBRUARY 5, 1976

YUGOSLAVS WARN AGAINST INTERFERENCE

ANNCR:

A TOP YUGOSLAV COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN NEWSMEN, HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER FUTURE SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN HIS COUNTRY. A BACKGROUND REPORT BY VOA CORRESPONDENT LARRY FREUND:

VOICE:

YUGOSLAV PARTY OFFICIAL ALEKSANDAR GRICKOV HAS TOLD A GROUP OF VISITING AUSTRIAN JOURNALISTS, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THAT YUGOSLAVIA INTENDS TO AVOID A REPETITION OF THE NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT SOVIET INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. "WE MUST CREATE A CLIMATE OF DEFENSE AGAINST A POSSIBLE INTERVENTION," HE SAID IN BELGRADE, ADDING: "ACTION MUST BE TAKEN TO PREVENT A CRY FOR FRATERNAL AID COMING FROM HERE."

MISTER GRICKOV, A TOP OFFICIAL IN THE YUGOSLAV LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS, HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST OUTSPOKEN PARTY LEADERS IN TALKS WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. HE HAS ALSO BEEN YUGOSLAVIA'S CHIEF DELEGATE TO THE PREPARATORY TALKS FOR A CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS. THERE, YUGOSLAVIA, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER PARTIES, HAS RESISTED ANY MOVE BY THE CONFERENCE TO RECOGNIZE A CENTRAL ROLE FOR SOVIET COMMUNISM IN EUROPE. THEY HAVE ALSO REJECTED THE IDEA OF A JOINT PROGRAM FOR ALL PARTIES. IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH NEWSMEN IN BELGRADE, MISTER GRICKOV IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT YUGOSLAVS DO NOT DISPUTE THE CORRECTNESS OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT ONE COMMUNIST PARTY SHOULD HELP ANOTHER IF THE LATTER WANTS IT. HE ADDED, "WE ONLY DISPUTE THE OBLIGATION OF EVERY PARTY TO ACCEPT AID."

THE YUGOSLAV PARTY OFFICIAL'S REMARKS WERE MADE ON THE EVE OF THE EXPECTED TRIAL IN BELGRADE OF THE FIRST GROUP OF THE NEARLY FORTY PRO-SOVIET YUGOSLAVS ARRESTED LAST YEAR. A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PRO-SOVIET HARDLINERS WAS LAUNCHED LAST AUTUMN BY THE YUGOSLAV LEADERS, CONCERNED ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUPS, DISCUSSED THEM WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS. A COMMENTARY LATER PUBLISHED IN THE SOVIET PRESS DISOWNED THE YUGOSLAV HARDLINERS AND THE YUGOSLAV CAMPAIGN COOLED. BUT IT HAS NOT ENDED AND WARNINGS CONTINUE TO BE PUBLISHED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AGAINST THE PRO-SOVIET GROUPS, KNOWN VARIOUSLY AS COMINFORMISTS, STALINISTS OR DOGMATISTS.

YUGOSLAVIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAVE FOLLOWED A SERIES OF UPS AND DOWNS SINCE LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE FRACTURED DURING THE NINETEEN FORTY-EIGHT BREAK BETWEEN TITO AND STALIN. RECENT DECLARATIONS BY BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE PROFESSED GOOD RELATIONS. YET AT THE SAME TIME THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE BEEN ISSUING STATEMENTS AIMED AT SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA'S INDEPENDENT BRAND OF COMMUNISM. IN DECEMBER YUGOSLAV COMMUNIST LEADER STANE DOLANC SAID THAT "YUGOSLAV COMMUNISTS HAVE NEVER HAD THE NEED TO DISCUSS WITH ANYONE WHAT ROAD THEY SHOULD CHOOSE, AND, "MISTER DOLANC WENT ON, "WE NEED NO RECIPES OR FORMULAS." ALEKSANDAR GRLICKOV IS REPORTED AS TELLING VISITING NEWSMEN IN BELGRADE THAT YUGOSLAV FARMERS DO NOT WANT TO GO INTO COLLECTIVE FARMS, THE WORKERS DO NOT WANT TO LOSE THEIR SELF-MANAGEMENT AND THEIR PASSPORTS, AND THE INTELLIGENTSIA

DO NOT WANT TO EXCHANGE YUGOSLAV FREEDOMS FOR RUSSIAN FREEDOMS.

PRESIDENT TITO, IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED THIS PAST WEEKEND, SAID THAT AFTER HE LEAVES THE SCENE IN YUGOSLAVIA THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES. THERE IS GENERAL RECOGNITION, HOWEVER, THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S KEY POSITION IN THE BALKANS AND IN EUROPE HAS CREATED KEEN INTEREST IN MANY CAPITALS ON THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY, ONCE THE EIGHTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD LEADER IS GONE. WARNINGS BY YUGOSLAVS AGAINST INTERFERENCE REFLECT SHARP AWARENESS OF THAT INTEREST.

GH/PBM